JIMMY PAGE, ALEISTE

STUART COUPE PROBES THE UNKNOWN. . .

Some people close to Led Zeppelin believe Jimmy Page's involvement with the occult responsible for the death of Robert Plant's five year old son.

Others are convinced that the fluctuating fortunes of Led Zeppelin are directly related to Page's infatuation with English occultist Aleister Crowley.

Page has been a disciple of Crowley's magical ideas for many years. He owns one of Crowley's houses, collects Crowley paraphernalia and is reported to have the world's second largest collection. He used to own and run a bookshop in England called the *Equinox* specialising in Crowley's numerous publications.

Does he like to talk of his interest? No.

"And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his thorns ten crowns, and upon his head the name of blasphemy. . .

And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should be killed. And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads.

And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is six hundred threescore and six."

— Book of Revelations

Aleister Crowley believed with his whole being that he was a magician and the beast in The Book of Revelations. Born in 1875 he soon proved a monsterous child, first called the beast by his mother after he mocked her and her religion -- she replying that his behaviour reminded her of the beast in Revelations.

Crowley then decided to set himself up in God's place and considered himelf The Beast.

"I am the Beast,I am the world of the Aeon. I spend my soul in blazing torrents that roar into Night, streams that with molten tongues hiss as they lick. I am a hell of a Holy Guru."

An incident from Crowley's youth gives indication of his character. He'd been told that cats have nine lives so he figured it must be almost impossible to kill one: "I caught a cat, and having administered a large dose of arsenic,I chloroformed it, hanged it above the gas jet, stabbed it, cut its throat, smashed its skull, and, when it has been pretty thoroughly burnt, drowned it and threw it out of the window that the fall might remove the ninth life. The operation was successful. I was genuinely sorry for the animal; I simply forced myself to carry out the experiment in the interests of pure science."

Crowley became a member of The Golden Dawn, a secret society whose aim was to achieve spiritual elevation. Formed late in the ninteenth century The Golden Dawn was led by S.L. MacGregor Mathers. At its height, the order had over 100 members with lodges in London, Paris, Edinburgh, etc.

Whilst in Egypt Crowley allegedly had a vision suggesting he should become The Golden Dawn's leader. Crowley had joined in 1898 and was given the magical name of Brother Perdurabo (I Shall Endure). The fight between Mathers and Crowley was bitchy.

Mathers sent a vampire after Aleister who counter attacked by sending out his own current of evil and destroying the vampire. Undetered Mathers caused Crowley's entire pack of bloodhounds to die, caused his servant to go mad and try to kill Mrs. Crowley. Rather annoyed, Crowley summoned up the demon Beelzebub and 49 attendfant devils, sending them after Mathers in Paris. In 1918 Mathers finally died from influenza. Those int he know blamed Crowley.

Crowley was a prolific writer. Poetry flowed throughout is life and he's author of numerous books, the most famous being **The Book Of The Lawl** dictated to Crowley in 1904 through a spirit named Aiwass (summoned by Crowley's wife at the time, Rose Kelly, who had clairvoyant powers.) **Diary Of A Drug Fiend, Magick in Theory and Practice** , and his occult thriller **Moon child** are the classics.

Expelled from the Golden Dawn, Crowley founded his own society A:© A:∉ (Argentinum Astrum -- Silver Star) which had 38 members by 1914. More trouble. Mathers went to court attempting to stop Crowley publishing The Golden Dawn's secrets in his magazine The Equinox.

Enter the Sex Magic incident.

Sex had, to say the least, been crucial to Crowley's existance for most of his life. A voluptous lover of any women within grasp he experimented with Sex Magic. In 1912 the leaders of a German occult society specialising in sex magic and calling themselves The Order Of Templars of the Orient were upset that Crowley was publishing their secrets in the Quinox. Crowley convinced them he'd made the discoveries independently and was invited to join their order, becoming British Head with the title Supreme and Holy King of Ireland, Iona and all the Britains that are in the Sanctuary of the Gnosis.

The crucial information is in The Book Of Lies: "Let the Adept be armed with his Magick Rood and provided with his Mystic Rose." (i.e. The former is The Phallus and the later The Vagina).

Sex magic ceremonies take place between men and women and they partake in the 'Feast of the Five Elements', being expected to be in a mystical frame of mind. The five elements include four from Western occult tradition — Wine, Flesh, Fish and Cereals and a fifth, either Spirit or Ether. The later purifies the former four elements. The union is symbolised by the union of Shiva and Shaki, or on the earthly plane by sexual union.

It is pointed out that unless the participants are in the right frame of mind they will experience only a common orgasm instead of "the most sublime of all experiences."

Tis all very complicated, deriving from very ancient practices but it wouldn't be too cynical to suggest that fucking under the right 'mental' conditions and surrounded by various paraphenalia is supposed to raise the consciousness to a never before experienced level of awareness. Away you go.

Being a natural boy Crowley was keen to explore the possibilities of sex magic whenever and wherever possible, as often as possible.Lust in the name of magic.

Crowley continued his work,the majority of which was more concerned with communication with spirits than performing miracles.He shaved his head, sharpened his teeth and continued travelling, wandering through Europe, Mexico, America, Italy, Japan, Ceylon, India, and Egypt. He was also an exceptionally keen mountain climber, tackling a number of gigantic peaks.

During the First World War he lived in America, writing anti-British propoganda and in 1916 ascended to the high magical grade of Magus by going through a self invented ceremony in which he baptized a toad as Jesus Christ and crucified it, setting himself up in Christ's place and fulfilling a childhood ambition.

Having discovered mescalin Crowley introduced it into his magical rites but his life was without continuity — endless mistresses, ceremonies, poverty, writing his defences against newspaper attacks and weird occurrences. Stories abounded throughout his life — people going mad, followers being forced to drink cats blood, orgies and Crowley's own account of shooting a bat which fell on his wife's hea, digging its claws into her hair. During the night she had a nightmare, thinking herself the bat and clinging to a mosquito net, howling, spitting, scratching and biting.

During the 1920's Crowley set up an Abbey in Sicly. Rumours of strange goings on reached Mousilini's government and he was expelled in 1923. From here on in Crowley's life was an anti-climax. He wandered through Europe, became a heroin addict, building to an intake of 11 grains a day — sufficient dosage to kill a roomfull of people, an eighth of a grain being the usual dosage.

Diary of a Drug Fiend was published, showing "a mystical figure not unlike himself benevolently giving adicts the strength to cure themselves, although it was his own policy to increase his intake constantly, thus demonstrating his superiority to any outside influence."

Crowley died on December 1, 1947 aged 72.

his reputation remains divided between "the most brilliantly gifted of modern magicians" and "the wickedest man in the world."

DO WHAT THOU WILT SHALL BE THE WHOLE OF THE LAW was his motto.

Since his death Crowley has enjoyed a degree of hipness and a certain cult following but discussions with 'serious occultist' lead me to believe that he's not magically volue these days. Names like Knight and Holzer, Valiente and Regardie are bantered around by the committed.

Strangely enough rock'n'roll bands have done most to keep his memory alive. The Beatles stuck his mug on the cover of **Sgt Peppers** — that's him second from left, top row. The one with a head like a glass ball. English band The Only Ones called their second album **Even Serpeants Shine**, singing songs like **The Beast** and **The Whole Of The Law.** But Page is the rock'n'roll name most associated with Crowley.

You live in Aleister Crowley's home?

Page: Yes, it was owned by Aleister Crowley. But there were two or three owners before Crowley moved into it. It was also a church that was burned to the ground with the congregation in it. And that's the site of the house. Strange things have happened in that house that have nothing to do with Crowley. The bad vibes were already there. A man was beheaded there and sometimes you can hear his head rolling down. I haven't actually heard it, but a friend of mine, who is extremely straight and doesn't know anything about anything like that at all, heard it. He thought it was the cats bungling about. I wasn't there at the time, but he told the help, "Why don't you let the cats out at night? They make a terrible racket, rolling about in the halls." And they said, "The cats are locked in a room every night." Then they told him the story of the house. So that sort of thing was there before Crowley got there. Of course, after Crowley there have been suicides, people carted off to mental Hospitals

And have you no contact with any of the spirits?

Page: I didn't say that. I just said I didn't hear the head roll.

What's your attraction to the place?

Page: The unknown. I'm attracted by the unknown, but I take precautions. I don't go walking into things blind.

Do you feel safe in the house?

Page: Yeah. Well, all my houses are isolated.Many is the time I just stay home alone. I spend a lot of time near water. Crowley's house is on Loch Ness, Scotland. I have another house in Sussex, where I spend most of my time. It's quite near London. It's moated and terraces off into lakes. I mean. I could tell you things, but it might give people ideas. A few things have happened that would freak some people out, but I was surprised actually at how composed I was. I don't really want to go on about my personal beliefs or my involvement in magic. I'm not trying to do a Harrison or a Townshend. I'm not interested in turning anybody on to anybody that I'm turned on to ☺☺☺☺ if people want to find things, they find them themselves. I'm a firm believer in that.

Enter Kenneth Anger, child actor extraordinaire, scene monger, film maker, Crowley devotee and autor of Hollywood mudraker **Hollywood Babylon**. Anger has been a long term Crowley disciple,. having been introduced to his work by Jack Parsons who was closely involved with Crowley near the end.

Anger quoted Crowley in the intro to **Hollywood Babylon** — 'Every Man and Every Woman in a Star.' He holds to a rather far fetched theory that all the Hollywood acting stars are initiates of Crowley's Order of the Silver Star. Hollywood Babylon has 33 chapters representing 33 degrees of Masonic initiation. Yelp, now it does get confusing.

The Silver Star is the inner sanctum of secret societies and apparently it's possible to be a member without even knowing the order of exists. This could occur due to characteristics exhibited by Hollywood stars, i.e., extreme self-absorption and egomania. Anger: "All the Hollywood Babylonians gave themselves to the dark forces, the angels of fire, with no holding back. Clara Bow, for instance, used to gang-bang with an entire football team." Her reward? "An innder wisdom."

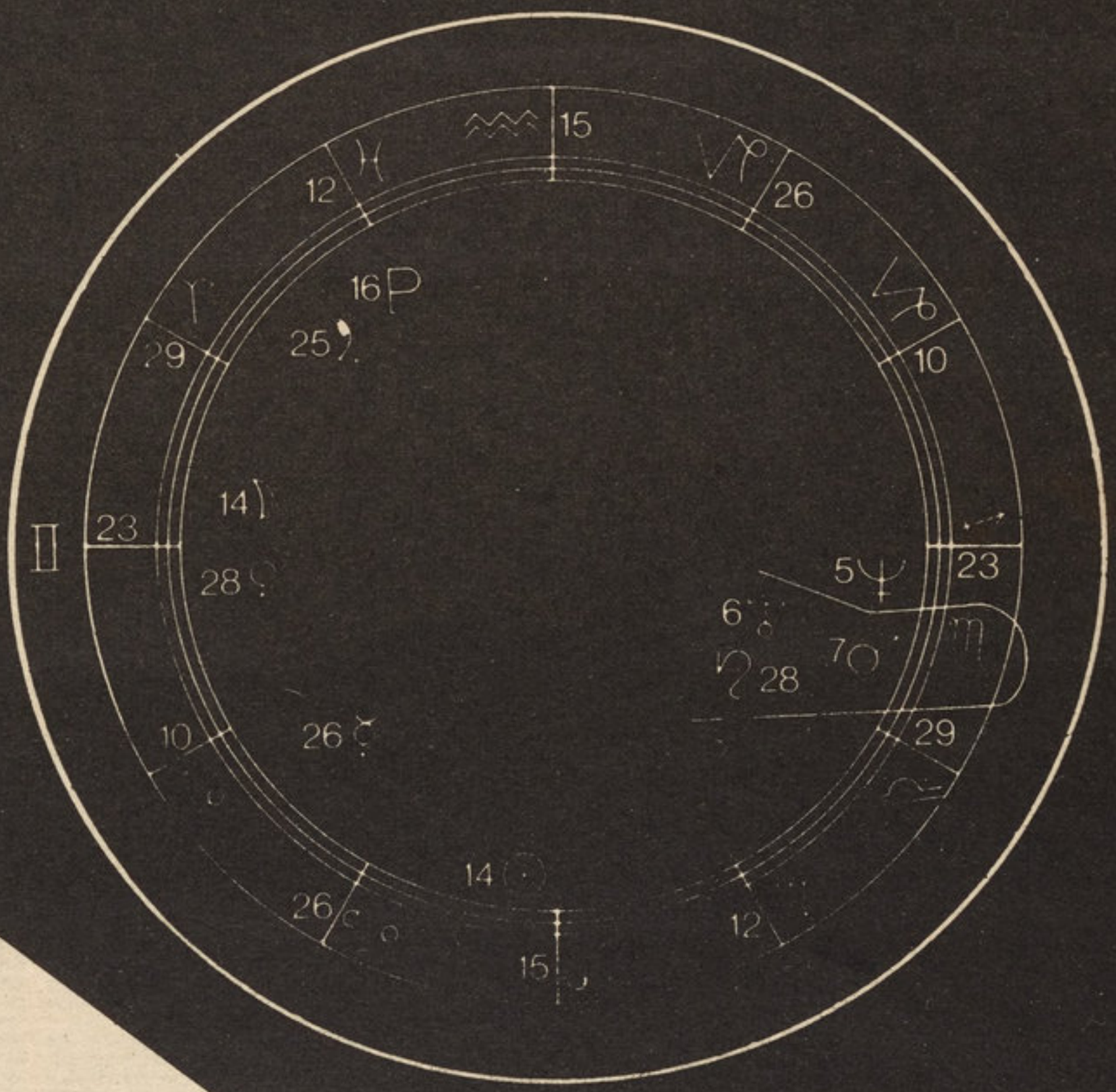
THe story goes that Anger and Page met at a book auction in London. both bidding for some rare Crowley books. Page won and Anger got shitty. "I can never compete with rock stars at auctions. They've got so much money" he lamented in Australia recently.

Anger commissioned Page to compose the soundtrack for **Lucifer Rising**, Anger's current project. He's already used Mick Jagger's moog meandering as the score for **invocation of My Demon Brother**, early sixties rock'n'roll in **Scorpio Rising** and ELO's **El Derado** suite for **Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome.**

The score wasn't delivered on time. That's when the bitchiness started. Auger sacked Page in absentia and started spreading stories about Page's 'problem' — something to do with needles and a track record that had nothing to do with album sales.

Said Anger: "Even though he gave me a room to work in his house in London, and the use of the editing console that was used for the Led Zepplin concert movie so that I could use the equipment to work on **Lucifer Rising**, he was never around, wouldn't return by calls. He

ER CROWLEY, KENNETH ANGER & THE BLACK ARTS



y completed 28 minutes of music and it rrived. So finally I realized that there nething more important than music to d that was the White Lady, which is a me for the disaster in his life.I realised d never finish the movie, at least under sent circumstances."

's girlfriend kicked Anger out of the

r claimed Page and friends had con- his belongings.

to Nick Kent: "What a snide bastard. f was just all over the place and I just e roadies to get it all together for him. he even turned that one round against

an,I had a lot of respect for him. As an t he was definitely in the vanguard. I 't know what he's playing at. I'm totally d and really disgusted. It's truly . I mean, he is powerless -- totally. The nage he can do is with his tongue."

s soundtrack has been used for **Lucifer Part 1**, shown in Australia during visit. Starring Marianne Faithful it was, h the exception of Page's weird music, east interesting of Anger's nine movies. teric, symbolic and irrelevant to those e know.'

remains cynical of Page's occult in- In retrospect, I'd have to say no, the in- not that serious. He's interested in col- whatever that means, but he's proven at he doesn't have a serious interest in by the manner in which he's related to ation. Also, he has everything in a bank hat's not a Crowleyian approach. He's rning anything from the material by it locked in a bank vault."

still maintains his occult obsession . I t as an obvious impact on Led Zepplin's d in recent interviews he's declined to the subject.

s crucial is that Page, like thousands of elieves, yes there is a supernature, avel is a possibility, non-concrete forces d there is a life after death. Further- accepts that, like Crowley, he posesses inary power, the ability to summon spirits and cast spells.

These aren't isolated beliefs. The classifieds in The Wiccan, A Newsletter of Old Religion of Wisecraft and Pagan Comment published in Sydney are typical.

CONTACT. Male, 18 years of age, would like to contat with a Coven or group with a view to eventual initiation. Sydney area please

ATTENTION YOUNG PAGANS. Psychically mature young people, aged 18 to 30 years, who are interested in eventual initiation into an old established Sydney Coven are invited to join "The Inner Circle". We are a newly formed group learning Craft and magical practices without any formal commitment, but under the guidance of a Wiccan coven

SYDNEY COVEN has a vacancy for a phychically mature couple M=F preferably with a knowledge of traditional practices

They mean it maaan.

As for me, I'm a bit cynical too. But here I was, sitting in my office, reading Crowley's biography, listening to Zep's fourth album and KAPOW, my heater explodes, sparks fly everywhere and smoke billows towards the ceiling.

"It must have been Crowley sending you a sign" says Debbie with a smile.

Suggested reading.

The Great Beast: The Life and Magick of Aleister Crowley by John Symonds (Mayflower). The definitive biography and study of Crowley and his methods.

The Sex Diary of Gerald Somme by Colin Wilson The Magician by Somerset Maughm. Fictional accounts of Crowley.

The God of the Labyrinth by Colin Wilson. Accounts of sex magic.

the Black Arts by Richard Cavendish (Picador). Overview by follower of Crowley.

Kenneth Anger by Rob Baker, Interview and overview in Bottom Line magazine issue 1

Kenneth Anger Rising by John Calendo. Interview and overview in Oui magazine. Date unknown.

The Occult by Colin wilson (Mayflower). The definitive overview of the occult including extensive material on Crowley.

Kenneth Anger by Mick Farren. Ram.

Any of Crowley's own books of prose or poetry.

The White Goddess by Robert Goves (Faber and Faber)
The ultimate cult book.